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FOREST RESEARCH IN PICTURES

NO. 62

WIND ADDS FINISHING TOUCH
TO FIRE WRACK IN FOREST



U. S. FOREST SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

This is the way a charming bit of forest looks after a careless camper has let fire slip the leash and run wild in the woods. Here, as is usually the case after a forest fire, the wind has piled the insecure trees like jack-straws. The fire which runs along close to the ground is less spectacular than the one which gets into the tops of the trees but it causes enormous destruction nevertheless. Surface roots are burned and killed by heat so that many trees are "wind-thrown" by a mere breeze. At the same time the humus in the soil is reduced to ashes, seedlings are killed off and scars are made about the bases of the trees left standing which may later bring them to earth as a result of fungus attack.

Unless well situated for transportation to lumber markets little if any of the fire-killed timber can be salvaged.

Thirty-five thousand forest fires burn more than 10,000,000 acres of timber in the United States every year. Five thousand of these fires are chargeable to campers and smokers and an equal number to incendiaries.

Photograph by U. S. Forest Service



